

17 Jan 59

Major General John M. Willems  
ACofS for Intelligence  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Willems:

I am in receipt of your letter dated 2 January 1959 with regard to the Van Deman files in which you suggest that a representative of this Agency look into these files to determine what interest we may have in them.

The information you furnished regarding the files will be quite helpful to us and we do appreciate it. One of the representatives of my security office is in almost daily contact with the Central Records Facility at Fort Holabird and will make the necessary arrangements for access to the files whenever a check of them is in order.

I would like to take this occasion to express my sincere gratitude for the splendid cooperation which has been afforded to our liaison representatives by the personnel of the Central Records Facility. They have been unusually helpful and it has materially assisted us in meeting our obligations.

Please accept my personal thanks for your cooperation and assistance in this and other matters of mutual interest.

Army review(s)  
completed.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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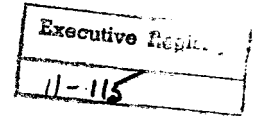
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HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



JAN 2 1958

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
2430 "E" Street, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Further investigation of the matter of the Van Deman files leads me to propose that your own representative look into these files to fulfil your interest therein.

Attached is a memorandum dated 18 August 1958 which describes in detail the content of the Van Deman files, together with a brief history of their development.

These files are currently located at the Central Records Facility, Fort Holabird, Baltimore, Maryland. They are being maintained and serviced as a separate file reference and will not be incorporated into the main reference files. The exact number of separate files is not known; however, the files occupy seventy-eight linear feet of storage space.

Research is facilitated by a comprehensive master index system which references the files by general subjects, personalities, organizations, addresses and telephone numbers.

The contents of the files are available to all accredited U. S. governmental agencies. Access by your representative can be arranged through your liaison officers at the Central Records Facility.

If I or my office can be of further assistance in this matter, I hope you will not hesitate to call upon me.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

*John M. Willems*

JOHN M. WILLEMS  
Major General, GS  
ACofS for Intelligence

1 Incl  
a/s

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2

18 August 1958

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Van Deman Files - Description and Use

1. GENERAL:

a. The VAN DEMAN Files consist of indices and back-up documents, all collected and compiled by Major General Ralph Henry VAN DEMAN, (RHVD), U.S. Army (Retired), who made his home in San Diego, California, after his retirement from the Army in 1929 and until his death in January 1952. The files cover the activities of subversive individuals, organizations and publications principally in the West Coast Area but also covering many other parts of the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, the Canal Zone and Baja California, as related to the West Coast activities. Most of the material in the files came from private confidential sources and informants developed by General Van Deman. Upon the death of General Van Deman in January 1952, his files were assigned to the Department of the Army and delivered to the AC of S, G2, Hq Sixth US Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, where they became part of the files of the G2 Section.

b. In 1955 names of individuals appearing in the RHVD files were placed in the Master Personality Index, Central Records Facility, and since that time have been a source of information on individuals for all users of that index, in addition to continued use by Sixth US Army G2, CIC and other Government Agencies in Sixth US Army area. When information was required by another Army area on an individual appearing in the RHVD files (obtained on a file check in the Master Personality Index), such information was summarized by OAC of S, G2, Sixth US Army, and forwarded to the requester.

2. KEY LIST:

a. Each item on an RHVD item card indicates the source of the information. In some instances the source was a publication, in which instance that source is revealed on the card (e.g., "PW", indicating the source as "PEOPLE'S WORLD", or as "Library No. 413", which indicates a publication under that number filed in the RHVD Library). The private sources and informants of RHVD, however, are indicated on the cards by symbols (e.g., B-31, A-9, C-2, D-30 etc.). A Key List, classified CONFIDENTIAL, identifies these sources.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RHVD FILES:

a. REFERENCE FILES: These consist mainly of documents obtained from private sources and informants, mostly agents' periodic reports, each showing the date and the code symbol of the source or informant.

Each report was cross-referenced to item cards of all persons and organizations mentioned therein and shown on the item cards as separate items for reference to each separate report. The greater portion are reports on organizations, in which many other organizations and individuals are mentioned. The documents were filed in the order in which they were received by RHVD and numbered in consecutive order, ten documents to a folder, each document with a prefix of "R" (for "reference"). The reference files are filed in sequence, numbered R-1 thru R-1 thru R-10939, and take a classification of CONFIDENTIAL, the highest classification, of documents filed therein.

b. LIBRARY: Consists of books, booklets, pamphlets, etc., collected by RHVD and/or his sources and informants. These were given consecutive numbers in the order in which they were received and filed, and are numbered 1 thru 1088. Titles of publications in the Library file are indexed alphabetically in the RHVD card indices. In referring to the Library file, it will be noted that some numbers are missing. Miss Margaret A. Kerr of the Better America Federation, Los Angeles, California gave much assistance to General Van Deman in compiling his records and furnished some publications to him. Arrangements were made by General Van Deman that upon his death Miss Kerr be allowed to take those library numbers which she wished; this was done and the missing numbers from the Library file are all believed to be among Miss Kerr's personal publications. Missing numbers are tabulated on the packing list. The Library material is UNCLASSIFIED.

c. FOLIOS: Consist of separate, sometimes voluminous folders, each on a separate subject, e.g., reports on a convention of a subversive organization; a series of leaflets regarding a specified agitation which was Communist instigated (e.g., against Universal Military Training; for certain strikes, etc.); a certain phase of Nazi activities, etc., etc. The folios are numbered consecutively in the order in which received, numbered 1 thru 72, and take a classification of CONFIDENTIAL.

d. SPECIAL "C-2" FILE: Consists of Office of Naval Intelligence, Eleventh Naval District fanfold reports on individuals, filed alphabetically, A thru Z. Reference to this file is by use of the symbol "C-2" on an item card. In some instances that symbol is all that is shown on a card; in other instances, additional items from other sources may be listed on the card. "C-2" is shown on the Key List as the source symbol for "ONI, 11th Naval District," and is also the source of other documents filed in the Reference Files and/or Folios and so indicated on item cards. In other words, if a card on an individual has the letters "C-2" and nothing else on the card, this refers to the Special "C-2" file on that individual; likewise if an item is briefed on the card and the source is shown only as "C-2", reference is made to the Special "C-2" file. However, if the item on a card shows, for example: "CP Organizer, Los Angeles (1939). (C-2) (R-1134)", then reference will be made to a document under Reference file R-1134 of which Eleventh Naval District is the source. The Special C-2 File is classified CONFIDENTIAL.

e. **PHOTO ALBUM:** Consists of photographs of individuals and groups thereof, numbered consecutively in the order in which received, and filed in consecutive numerical order in a large album. These consist of police "mug" pictures, Military and Naval identification photos, snapshots, press photos, etc., etc. On an item card reference is made to this file by Photo Number shown thereon. The Photo Album is UNCLASSIFIED.

f. **MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS:** Consist of various types of documents generally not numbered nor alphabetized, some of which were apparently on hand at the death of General Van Deman and never catalogued, some of which, however, were cross-referenced to item cards in the indices. Several folders appear to be correspondence between RHVD and personal informants; others contain copies of police records on individuals; one small group contains Strategic Intelligence Information numbered in J-series and M-series; and one large section contains a series of studies on Communist Party and CP front activities apparently compiled by the Better America Federation for use by the (Dies) House Committee on Un-American Activities. These Miscellaneous documents take a classification of CONFIDENTIAL.

g. **PUBLICATIONS:** These comprise actual copies of certain subversive newspapers (CALIFORNIA EAGLE, DAILY WORKER, WESTERN WORKER and its successor, the PEOPLE'S WORLD sometimes referred to as the DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD), and some copies of the NATIONAL REPUBLIC Magazine. All are filed chronologically. All of these publications are referenced on item cards of both individuals and organizations mentioned therein. The newspapers are referenced by name and the NATIONAL REPUBLIC by Symbol D-30. The Publications Files are UNCLASSIFIED.

4. **INDEX.** The RHVD Indices appear on cards, size 3-7/8" x 6", in several different sections, as follows:

a. **PERSONNEL:** Filed by name of the individual, alphabetically, A thru Z; aliases of the individuals also appear on cards in the index, each referring back to the item card filed under the person's key name. Each item card contains separate items (on some card only one item appears), each item indicating the information on hand, its source, the location of the basic document in the RHVD files and the date of the basic document. Attached as Annex A is an example of a representative RHVD index card on an individual. As explained in foregoing paragraph 1, names of individuals in the RHVD index also appear in the Master Personality Index; however, the CRF card on a personality referring to the RHVD file cannot be used alone as it does not contain items indicating where in the file information on that person is located. The CRF Master Personality Index Card contains name, address (if any) and the symbol "RHVD6A", only. Hence, the RHVD personality cards cannot be discarded simply because they are duplicated by name in the Master Personality Index.

Note: some RHVD personality cards have a CRF Dossier number written in pencil at the top of the card. This indicates that the information from the RHVD file on that person has been summarized and placed in that person's dossier of that number. This was accomplished when the Master Per-

sonality Index was accessible in the office of the AC of S, G2, Hq Sixth US Army.

b. ORGANIZATIONS: Item cards on Organizations (including Unions) are filed alphabetically by name, A thru Z. Aliases or other names of such Organizations also appear on cards in the index, each referring back to the item card under the key name. As on a personality card, the organizational item card contains separate items, each item indicating the information on hand, its source, the location of the basic document in the RHVD files and the date of the basic document. The explanation given under foregoing paragraph 4a, is also applicable to item cards on organizations. Even the Photo File may be referred to on an organizational item card, if the photo was of a group of individuals of that organization.

c. LIBRARY: Item cards on names of books, booklets, and other publications, filed alphabetically, A thru Y. If the publication appears in the RHVD Library file (par 3b), the Library File Number is shown on the card. However, in many instances, the reference on the card is only to a Reference File (par 3a), or a Folio (par 3c), etc., in which the subject publication may be mentioned.

d. STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE: Filed alphabetically, by subject, "Air Ports" thru "War", cards generally refer to a small group of folders bearing symbol numbers "J" and "M" filed with the Miscellaneous Documents (par 3f).

e. STREETS: Cards bearing names of streets, filed alphabetically, A thru Z. These street name cards each bear the name of the city in which the street is located and the number on that street where a person of intelligence interest lived or an organization held meetings, and the pertinent dates. These cards apparently were used to ascertain the name of the person or organization concerned when an address, only, was known. Locations concerned cover all areas from which RHVD received information.

f. SPECIAL LISTINGS: Cards under the following categories, filed as indicated (locations concerned cover all areas from which RHVD received information):

(1) POST OFFICE BOXES: Cards filed by number, each card listing the city in which the Post Office is located, and the holder of the P.O. Box, as well as the pertinent date is indicated.

(2) TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Cards filed alphabetically by names of cities in which the telephone is located. Each card lists the city name, plus all telephone numbers in that city of intelligence interest, together with name of person or organization concerned and pertinent date.

(3) STREETS: (Numbered) Cards bearing titles of Numbered streets, filed numerically, 1st Street thru 603rd Street. These cards each bear the name of the city in which the street is located and the number on that street where a person of intelligence interest lived or an organization held meetings, and the pertinent dates.

g. The EHVD card indices are unclassified.